



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Welcomes Iraqi Students to Study Elections

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Bruce McPherson hosted Iraqi students from Stanford University's Exchange Program as they study how elections are conducted in California.

"Democracy is the greatest gift from our forefathers – one that must never be taken for granted," said Secretary Bruce McPherson. "These bright young people are the future of a democratic Iraq. I am honored that they have chosen my office as a model to observe."

The Stanford-Iraq Student Exchange Project is the first of its kind in the country, and is intended to foster friendship, understanding, and mutual respect for the cultures of the United States and Iraq.

Students met with Secretary McPherson to discuss elections and public policy issues. Then they received a briefing from the Secretary elections staff about voting ballot security, and other aspects of administering impartial elections.

"Iraq's democratic system is so new. We are starting from zero and we want to learn from Secretary McPherson's office the process of how America conducts its elections," said Sasan Sabah Hanna, 20, from Erbil, Iraq.

Note: Photo of Secretary McPherson meeting with Iraqi students attached.



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